Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 1680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, PO, NATO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN DEMARCHE TO PORTUGAL

REF: OSLO 1254

NORWEGIAN DELEGATION HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES USED

BY THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DURING HIS MARCH 26 CONVERSATION WITH THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN OSLO (REFTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

- 1. THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN HELSINKI ON MARCH 21-22, 1975, AT THEIR REGULAR SPRING SESSION. A PRESS COMMUNIQUE FROM THAT MEETING HAS BEEN ISSUED. A COPY IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.
- 2. AS YOU WILL SEE, THE MINISTERS STATED THE FOLLOWING ABOUT PORTUGAL:

"THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE CONSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO SECURE A RAPID AND PEACEFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE POPULATION IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THOSE STRIVING TOWARDS DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PORTUGAL."

3. I HAVE WISHED TO INFORM YOU PERSONALLY ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE

COMMUNIQUE ON THIS POINT AND ABOUT THE DISCUSSION WE HAD IN HELSINKI. THIS DISCUSSION FULLY REVEALS THE GREAT INTEREST WHICH WE ATTACH TO DEVELOPMENTS INPORTUGAL AND IN THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND IN PARTICULAR OUR EXPRESSED SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC RULE IN YOUR COUNTRY.

4. AS FAR AS OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED, YOU WILL BE AWARE THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION HAVE FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SINCE APRIL 25, 1974, WITH THE LIVELIEST INTEREST AND A POSITIVE DESIRE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC RULE. FOR THIS REASON THE QUESTION OF CLOSER NORWEGIAN-PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS RAISED DURING THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MR. KLEPPE, TO PORTUGAL IN JULY, 1974. THIS HAS LED, INTER ALIA, TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION, WHICH HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN OSLO IN FEBRUARY, 1975. WE HOPE THAT THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION WILL LEAD TO INCREASED TRADE AND COOPERATION. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WAS ALSO MANIFESTED BY THE VISIT WHICH I MYSELF HAD THE PLEASURE TO PAY TO PORTUGAL IN OCTOBER, 1974.

THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION WELL UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEVELOPMENT IN DOMESTIC POLITICS IN PORTUGAL HAS NOT BEEN FREE OF PROBLEMS. WE WERE, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOLIDING OF ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON A FOXED DATE NEXT MONTH AND LATER FOR A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT AND TO STRESS ITS FIRM SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC RULE IN PORTUGAL AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT FREE ELECTIONS BE HELD AT THE DATE ANNOUNCED.

END TEXTBRUCE

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ALL NATO CAPITALS

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